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✧EDITORIAL✧NOTES.✧

The End of the Current Volume.—With this number THE HEBREW STUDENT closes its second volume. It is believed that the journal has come to occupy a recognized position among periodicals. Certainly no more appreciative reception could have been expected for it than that which it has received. Whether this has been deserved may, of course, be a question; but this, at all events, is true: that the motive which prompted the institution of the journal has been recognized as one worthy of encouragement. Many, even among those who were directly interested in the undertaking, doubted the possibility of its being made a success. It was not certain that sufficient matter of a suitable character could be obtained to authorize the publication of a *monthly*. It was also doubted whether a constituency sufficiently large could be secured to furnish a financial basis. We believe that a reasonable degree of success has attended our efforts in both of these directions. It would be difficult to find contributions of a higher class than those which have appeared in the pages of the present volume. A glance at the *Table of Contents*, or at the *Index* will satisfy, we are persuaded, even the most critical. We hope, however, to make the next volume more varied and interesting. New features will be added, and, in some of the departments, much improvement may be expected. It is not easy to establish financially a journal of this character. If this had been accomplished in eighteen months it would have seemed miraculous. The undertaking is especially difficult from the fact of the exceedingly low subscription price. The increase has been a regular, and even rapid, one. It is necessary, however, that the friends of the journal render telling service in this regard. Much, it is true, has already been done, but there yet remains much to do.

The Study of Arabic.—This age is an exceedingly practical one. Very little study is carried on for the sake of the study itself. It must have some practical bearing upon a definite end which is in the mind of the student. Perhaps it is better that this should be so. Judged in this light, of what service is the study of Arabic? It may be said, *first*, that for the sake of the Arabic literature, it is well worth while to study the language. The richness and variety of the literature is proverbial. Almost countless are the works of poetry, philology, history, geography, mathematics and astronomy. It is true that the literature does not go back much farther than the time of Mohammed, and that, by the fourteenth century, it had passed its acme; it is, however, to be remembered that those who speak it to-day occupy a large portion of the earth's surface, and that it is the ecclesiastical language of one of the most wide-spread religions upon the globe. But not only is the literature a rich one; the language itself is rich almost beyond belief. It has a vocabulary of 60,000 words, a variety of expression unequalled in any other language. It is said that for *sword*, there are 1000 terms; for *lion*, 500; for *misfortune*, 400; for *serpent*, 200. A *second* reason for the study of Arabic is the use which may be made of the knowledge thus gained in determining the meaning of Hebrew words. As all know, the list of words which occur but once or twice in